#### WS IN THE WORLD OF ECF



March 2000

# THE LATEST NEWS IN THE WORLD OF ECF

### ADDITION OF JUDGE C. RAY MULLINS

The Honorable C. Ray Mullins was sworn as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia on Tuesday, February 29, 2000. Judge Mullins was one of the initial Chapter 7 Panel Trustees to receive training in ECF.

We are excited about the opportunity to work with Judge Mullins in the ECF world.

In addition to their Atlanta cases, Judge Mullins and Judge Massey will split the cases filed in the Rome Division.

### EXPANSION PLANS FOR YEAR 2000

As the Court moves forward into Year 2000, plans for expansion of the ECF program are underway.

Within the next few months additional attorneys will be added to the program. The addition of these new participants will be the beginning of the Court's move to allow all filers to file their documents electronically.

Training has begun with the firm of Clark & Washington. The Court's goal is to begin receiving new petitions electronically from Clark & Washington by the time of the April foreclosure.

The firm of Fuller & McKay received training on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Along with Fuller & McKay, sole practitioner Robert S. Toomey also participated in the training. When those two firms become live participants, approximately 25% of the Rome Division caseload will be totally paperless. The firm of Berry &

Wilson is currently filing cases in the Rome Division.

The Gainesville Division will begin their expansion by training attorney Marcia Cook. Richard Valdejuli and the firm of Berry & Wilson are already filing cases in the Gainesville Division. The firm of Clark & Washington will also file cases in the Gainesville Division.

The Newnan Division will also be participating in the expansion. Two sole practitioners, Ike Hudson and Lee Frison, have expressed interest in the ECF program, and will receive training the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. As you know, Newnan has been receiving cases since the inception of the pilot project, and these two attorneys will be added to the several who are already filing cases electronically.

# CONVERSION OF BANCAP DATA TO ECF

Currently the Administrative Office of the United States Courts is

working on a program that will convert all of the data currently stored in the BANCAP database to the ECF database. Our hope is that the programming necessary to complete this conversion will be ready sometime in late Spring or early Summer. When this conversion is completed, all case information for both open and closed cases will be available electronically at the Court's website, www.ganb.uscourts.gov.

We are also hopeful that this conversion will coincide with the actual placement of the ECF server in our offices on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the United States Courthouse.

Remember, that the BANCAP information does not include the actual documents. BANCAP was an electronic docketing program, not a program designed to handle electronic documents. So, those cases will not have documents attached. However, all of the docket information will be available to the user.

### ATTORNEY/TRUSTEE GUIDE

An update of the old Participant Guide is underway. A portion of the new guide relating to case opening is already being used in the current training of new firms.

The new guide, when completed,

will contain many tips that will assist you in the ECF program and will be accessible on-line at the Court's website, <u>www.ganb.uscourts.gov.</u>

#### CASE OPENING

We have had the opportunity to preview proposed new case opening features in the ECF program. The new features will provide some positive benefits to the users, both internally and externally.

Currently during case opening the user is automatically looped through the screen that adds an alias to the debtor name. In the new module, you will only have to access that screen if the debtor does indeed have an alias. Also, a screen will be displayed where the user will select, by clicking buttons, the specific schedules being filed. This will be used to create the docket text, and to set up deadlines for the missing schedules.

We are currently working closely with the Clerk's Office in the Southern District of California on a module that will interface between certain petition preparation software packages and the ECF database for an automatic upload of specified pieces of data. Currently, data items like debtor name, address, and Social Security number have to be input into the ECF database as well as the petition preparation software. When this module is completed, the user will only have to input that information once in their petition software, then the upload will happen automatically into the Court's ECF database. We know this will be a great step forward for our external users.

The firm that created Bankruptcy 2000 for Windows has been working with the Court in Southern California to write the code necessary to accomplish this transfer of data. Bankruptcy 2000 has been kind enough to provide the Court with complimentary copies of its software so we could work with them on the development of this program.

# ECF STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 2000

Division	Paperless cases filed
Atlanta	140
Newnan	45

Gainesville	20
Rome	11
Total	216

The total of 216 paperless cases filed in February is an increase of 25.6% over the 172 filed in January. Atlanta's paperless filings grew from 125 to 140. Gainesville went from 0 to 20. Rome increased from 6 to 11. Newnan also showed an increase from 41 to 45 paperless cases.

During the month of February, attorneys and trustees made 1, 869 entries into the ECF database, which was an increase over the 1,184 entries made in January.